

rocket barrages. It is crucially important that we stand by our friend and ally, now and in the future.

It is important to note that support for Israel is an issue that Democrats and Republicans here in Congress consistently work on in a bipartisan manner. Our willingness to work together sends a strong message internationally that the United States is committed to our friend and partner, Israel.

Madam Speaker, it is truly an honor to stand by Israel and I know my colleagues join me in expressing Mazel Tov to all Israelis for a remarkable 60 years and wish Israel and its people a safe and secure future.

IN HONOR OF MOTHER'S DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor our Nation's mothers this Mother's Day because they embody the definition of strength, courage and compassion. Mothers are the backbone of American values and vitality and I ask that my colleagues honor the mothers of our Nation on Sunday, May 11, 2008.

The history of celebrating Mother's Day began when Anna Jarvis of West Virginia desired to honor the life of her deceased mother, Anna Reeves Jarvis. In 1908, Jarvis' church honored her mother as the first Mother's Day Celebration and then, in 1910, the governor of West Virginia, William Glasscock, wrote the first Mother's Day Proclamation, which encouraged families to celebrate Mother's Day. Anna Jarvis moved beyond her home State and urged the Federal Government to establish a national day to celebrate Mother's Day. Eventually the Sixty-Third Congress passed H.J. Res. 263. This resolution designated the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. The next day President Woodrow Wilson signed a Presidential Proclamation directing the Nation to display flags on government buildings and homes to show America's love and dedication for mothers.

Mother's Day is a time for Americans nationwide to show affection and respect for the everyday heroines we call mothers, aunts, great aunts, grandmothers and great grandmothers—women of courage and strength that carry our country by raising children and uplifting our families. On May 11th, I urge my colleagues and fellow citizens to celebrate Mother's Day.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JERRY GUEDERIAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Mr. Jerry Guederian by entering his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I honor Mr. Guederian, the 2008 Nevada Micro-Enterprise Small Business Person of the Year.

As a young child, Jerry had a passion for shoes. His passion led him to his studies at the Ars Sutoria Institute in Milan, Italy, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in shoe design. Armed with skills, determination, and talent, Jerry came to the United States from Switzerland and opened his first Shoe Lab in Los Angeles, California in 1989. His successful shoe repair business led him to franchising his stores throughout Southern California. In 1995, his passion for the business eventually brought him to Las Vegas, Nevada.

Jerry's business success centers around his philosophy of having the best craftsmanship and customer service. Customers are often invited to watch Jerry's well trained cobblers repair their shoes, bag, or luggage through a Shoe Lab 'viewing window'.

Nominees for the Macro-Enterprise Award are judged by an independent panel of small business leaders on a variety of criteria including staying power, employee growth, sales increases, innovations of service, and contributions to community-oriented projects. Mr. Guederian and Shoe Lab excelled in every category.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Jerry Guederian and his outstanding accomplishments in the Southern Nevada business community and his recent achievement of being named Nevada's 2008 Micro-enterprise Small Business Person of the Year.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHARLIE SCOTT

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to day to acknowledge racing pioneer Charlie Scott, and to express support for his admission into the Georgia Automobile Racing Hall of Fame Association.

Born in Crawford, Georgia, Charlie Scott was the first African-American to drive in an officially sanctioned National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) event, debuting at the Daytona Beach Grand National in 1956. As reported by NASCAR.com earlier this year, "[Charlie] drove a Kiekhaefer Chrysler. When the checkered flag waved, Scott found himself in 19th place, earning \$75 for his efforts." This outing—at Daytona, where NASCAR was born—was a groundbreaking effort and no doubt inspired countless future NASCAR drivers and fans. His illustrious career included races all over the country in motorcycles and other automobiles. He loyally supported the sport throughout his lifetime, and deserves recognition for helping to break the color barrier in automobile racing.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the achievements of Mr. Scott and express my gratitude for his courageous efforts to make racing an inclusive sport from the very beginning.

STEM CELL SCIENCE: THE FOUNDATION OF FUTURE CURES HEARING IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I have been deeply involved in working to expand the Federal policy on stem cell research over the last several years with my friend DIANA DEGETTE, and I am encouraged to see the House Energy and Commerce Committee hold its first hearing on the subject of stem cell policy and the foundation for future cures. I look forward to hearing from the expert witnesses testifying today, everyone from Dr. Elias Zerhouni, Director of the National Institutes of Health, leading scientists, Dr. George Daley of Children's Hospital Boston, and Dr. John Gearhart of Johns Hopkins University, and Weyman Johnson, Jr. who chairs the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, about the ever important field of regenerative medicine. There have been a couple of very exciting developments in the field recently, underscoring the critical role of the United States' scientific community and the need for even more coordinated Federal research.

Announcements from scientists about removing single cells from embryos to develop embryonic stem cell lines, and using human skin cells in ways that offer similar promise as embryonic stem cells, underscores the importance of pursuing all avenues of science that could advance human health.

The recent discoveries are significant, but we must remember that important scientific advances do not always translate to medical advances. It is for this reason that I believe, and scientists agree, it would be irresponsible to abandon embryonic stem cell research, which continues to show the most immediate promise.

My passion for advancing and expanding research on stem cells comes from years of meeting with those who are suffering from diabetes, Alzheimer's, cancer, heart disease, Parkinson's and their loved ones—and from the many scientists I have had met over the years who have hailed the promise of the pluripotency, that is the ability to become any cell in the body, of embryonic stem cells, and the breakthrough of induced pluripotent stem cells, iPS, which are believed to have the same qualities. There is no greater promise for better treatments and potential cures than there is with a strong Federal investment in ethical forms of medical research of all kinds. American scientists should be leading the world.

iPS is a major scientific breakthrough, however many have said the viruses and genes used in the process to create the embryonic-like state of the human skin cells can cause cancer. If the cancer factor cannot be eliminated, and only further research will tell, iPS cells may be better suited for learning more about cancer, for example, or for improving pharmaceutical drugs. So, if it is the case that iPS cells might prove better for some uses and embryonic stem cells better for others, how could we abandon one for the other?

It is apparent that with the availability of new stem cell lines, the ability of medical researchers to alleviate the suffering of millions will be bolstered. The United States should support comprehensive stem cell research of all kinds, instead of tying the hands of researchers and asking patients with some of the most debilitating diseases to wait even longer. Federal policy must be updated to reflect science advancements.

Moving forward, I believe we need to look for ways to strengthen the ethical framework which guides all forms of regenerative medicine. Policies should be in place to allow scientists to pursue fundamental science inquiries. It will also be essential that Congress work with the National Institutes of Health to ensure that any change in policy can be implemented with ease. When Congress votes to expand the Federal policy or when the next Administration changes the policy, which I am confident will happen, we must have the capacity to move forward quickly to expand the Stem Cell Registry to include the many lines derived post August 9, 2001, and to supply new Federal grants.

We simply must pursue all avenues of science that show promise for advancing human health—and the role of the Federal Government in carrying this out is paramount. For more than a century, the National Institutes of Health has promoted cooperation among the scientists who receive Federal research dollars, and has made knowledge sharing a priority. While state-funded stem cell initiatives are important, without the support of Federal Government there remains a void.

In just 10 short years since Dr. James Thompson announced the first embryonic stem cell line, we have made great strides. Without the Federal funding restriction, who knows where we would be today. Nearly three-quarters of Americans from all walks of life support embryonic stem cell research, as does the majority in Congress who support expanding the Federal stem cell policy to allow for funding and oversight of embryonic stem cell research and who voted for the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, which with great disappointment was vetoed twice by President Bush.

I cannot stress enough the promise of stem cell research of all kinds for alleviating the suffering of the 100 million American patients and so many more around the globe who are living with devastating diseases for which there are no good treatments and for which there is no cure. As Dr. Elias Zerhouni, Director of the National Institutes of Health, stated in Senate testimony in March 2007: "It is clear today that American science will be better served and the nation would be better served if we let our scientists have access to more cell lines." We must work to remove the barriers to Federal funding for embryonic stem cell research.

WELCOMING HONOR AIR

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise to welcome World War II veterans from Western North Carolina to Washington, DC. I am honored to have these members of the Greatest

Generation here in Washington to visit the National World War II Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

Honor Air of Henderson and Buncombe counties provides free trips for World War II Veterans to ensure that they have an opportunity to see the memorial which honors their service to our nation, and to commemorate their fallen comrades. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to the dedicated volunteers of Honor Air in all of its locations across the country for making these trips possible.

The National World War II Memorial was opened to the public in May of 2004, and has since been visited by millions of people from around the world. Built to honor the 16 million Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, and Merchant Mariners who served our Nation during World War II, the National World War II Memorial serves as a reminder of their sacrifice and service to the American people. I am thankful that we have finally found a permanent memorial here in the Nation's capital to honor their service.

On behalf of the residents of North Carolina's 11th District and all Americans, I offer our deepest appreciation to these visitors for their service, their sacrifice, and their presence here today. These men and women represent the bravery and benevolence of America—past, present, and future.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring and welcoming these distinguished veterans from Western North Carolina to the Capital of our grateful Nation.

HONORING SAMUEL H. HOWARD ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SIXTY- NINTH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 69th birthday of Samuel H. Howard, a man who has made an indelible impact on the health of Americans and whose life is an inspiration to us all.

During his more than 40-year career, Sam has served as a White House fellow, been a leader at colleges and health care organizations, and founded and led several corporations charting a course to improve health care for all Americans.

A proud graduate of Oklahoma State University, Sam also holds a master's degree from the prestigious Stanford University. He has received multiple awards for his business acumen, including being inducted by his alma mater into the Oklahoma State University School of Business Hall of Fame. Sam was twice awarded the Federation of American Hospitals President's Achievement Award.

In 1994, Sam received the Nashville NAACP Branch Image Award for Lifetime Achievement. His life has shown how much one can achieve when grounded by faith, family, and fortitude.

Madam Speaker, in Tennessee we are fortunate to have Sam Howard as a pillar of our community, and I am privileged to call him my friend. Today, on his birthday, I rise to salute him, express my gratitude for his service to his fellow man and wish him warm blessings for many years to come. Happy Birthday, Sam.

COVERING THE UNINSURED

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the issue of the uninsured in recognition of National Uninsured Week in our country.

In recent years the cost of health care has grown wildly. Those who can afford private or employer-based health insurance are fortunate. Unfortunately, 47 million Americans lack health insurance, including nine million children—and in Texas one out of every four individuals is without health insurance.

We need a national health care plan, but until we make it a national priority, Congress will continue to make incremental steps.

That's why Congress has worked so hard to include more children under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and I have introduced the Health Centers Renewal Act (H.R. 1343), the Community Mental Health Services Act (H.R. 5167) and the Ending the Medicare Disability Waiting Period Act (H.R. 154).

Ten years ago Congress created the SCHIP to help provide health insurance for children of low-income workers. These are hard-working families whose jobs don't offer employer-sponsored health insurance, or whose dependant coverage for children is unaffordable.

Nationwide there are approximately 9 million uninsured children. Alarmingly, more than 1.5 million of those children live in Texas. Our state had significant barriers against the enrollment of new children in SCHIP, and even has policies that have kicked kids out of the program.

As a result, Texas SCHIP enrollment has dropped from about half a million in 2003 to 350,000 in 2007. While children are unceremoniously removed from SCHIP, the number of uninsured continues to grow in our state.

There are about 1.5 million Texas children in households earning less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level and 750,000 to 850,000 of them are eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP coverage. Three fourths are not enrolled in either program, meaning there are 200,000 to 300,000 kids in Texas who are eligible but not enrolled in SCHIP.

Tragically, the state doesn't even use all the funds the federal government has provided for our children who are going without basic care. Eventually the money—more than \$850 million in the last seven years—goes to other states or back to the Federal government.

Bipartisan majorities in both houses of Congress have supported an expansion of SCHIP that would help solve some of Texas's problems twice over the last year. Sadly, President Bush vetoed our efforts both times, but we will not give up until our children have the health care they need.

In the meantime, we have opened other fronts in the battle to improve the quality of health care in our country. The Health Centers Renewal Act was introduced last year and approved by the Subcommittee on Health on April 23, and will go to the full committee soon.

Health centers represent our Nation's largest primary health care system and serve as